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29 March 1981

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AM-Terrorism

WASHINGTON, MARCH 29, REUTER -- DEFENSE SECRETARY CASPAR WEINBERGER TODAY DISPUTED A CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) REPORT THAT THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM; CALLING IT ''A VERY PRELIMINARY DRAFT.''

MR WEINBERGER SAID HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT ''THERE IS GOOD CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN PARTICIPATING IN THE TRAINING AND EQUIPPING OF GROUPS; THAT FOR WANT OF A BETTER TERM; CAN BE CALLED TERRORIST GROUPS.''

BUT HE ADDED THAT THE CIA REPORT; SOME DETAILS OF WHICH WERE PUBLISHED IN A WASHINGTON NEWSPAPER TODAY; HAD ''SPECIFICALLY NOT BEEN ISSUED'' AND DID NOT CONSTITUTE THE FINAL JUDGEMENT OF THE CIA.

''APPARENTLY IT IS JUST A DRAFT....A VERY PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF THE THINKING OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE;'' HE SAID IN AN INTERVIEW ON ABC'S ISSUES AND ANSWERS PROGRAM.

THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HAS CHARGED THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS DIRECTLY HELPING TO FOMENT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND; IN HIS FIRST NEWS CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 28; SECRETARY OF STATE ALEXANDER HAIG SAID MOSCOW; AS PART OF A ''CONSCIOUS POLICY;'' UNDERTOOK ''THE TRAINING; FUNDING AND EQUIPPING'' OF TERRORISTS.*

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